

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
COMBINED QUARTERLY MEETING
PRAIRIE HILLS PLAZA
JULY 25, 2013**

MEETING MINUTES

SRC Members Present

Scott Burlingame
Kelly Smeltzer
Rod Gillund
Donene Feist (phone)
Deb Carlson

Don Brunette
Pat Anderson
Vickay Gross
Russ Cusack

Absent

Marshall Longie
Harley Engelman
Jillian Schaible

SILC Members Present

Scott Burlingame
Rod Gillund
Peter Yung
Melvin Erdmann

Dennis Lyon
Royce Schultze
Larry Thiele
Sandra Koffler

Jamie Hall
Jen Schill
Erik Williamson

VR Staff Present

Robyn Throlson

Patty Wanner

Helen Baumgartner

Guest

Craig Sinclair

Dennis Lyon, President of SILC, and Scott Burlingame, Chairman of SRC, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

Independent Living Center Services

Royce Schultze, Dennis Lyon and Scott Burlingame reported on the IL Centers in the state. Each Independent Living Center is a private, independent, non-profit organization with satellite offices. Each has its own board of directors. Each center may specialize in a few areas, but all work together when possible.

IL Centers core services include: Information and Referral, Individual and Systems Advocacy, Independent Living Skills Training, and Peer Mentoring.

General VR Services – Tom Schiwal

Tom gave the history of changes to the VR program and explained the VR process, along with who can benefit from VR services.

Order of Selection – Robyn Throlson

Since moving into Order of Selection, DVR has been revising policies and reducing case services expenditures, providing more services in-house. As a result, we were able to begin opening categories in December, 2012.

We are currently serving all individuals who were in a plan status at the time we moved into an Order of Selection. We have opened Priority Category I, and continue to provide services to all newly eligible applicants who qualify for that category. In addition, we have begun releasing individuals from Priority Category II.

Every month, we analyze expenditures, caseload movement into services statuses and closures, as well as staff and fiscal resources. Based on that analysis, the team determines how many may be released.

Looking in to the future, we are taking steps to open Priority Category II with a target of late FFY 2014 or early 2015.

All individuals who remain on the wait list are offered information and referral services. They are also contacted every 90 days to maintain contact, obtain any new information that may be available and to ascertain if they are interested in remaining on the wait list.

In December, when we started releasing individuals from the wait list, there were 1,399 on the wait list. As of the latest review on July 15, there were 623 on the wait list. To date, we have removed 812 names from the wait list.

We update our website monthly with the current wait list numbers.

CMT Overview – Cheryl Wescott

One of the training needs identified by counselors has been, “How do I motivate clients?” This is being met through CMT. CMT means cognitive motivational tools. Liz Fabiano is teaching counselors a combination of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral theory and concrete tools. It focuses on meeting people where they are, not where we think they are. We help clients identify stages of change and their own intrinsic reasons for working. The overall goal is to increase each person’s intrinsic motivation. It is not a way to rule people out of VR. It is not about the counselor, the parent, or a spouse. It is about each individual who walks through the door. The CMT process helps people identify a sense of self and who they want to be.

Kate Millner, VR counselor from the Bismarck office, shared a case example using CMT skills. She emphasized that each person and case are different.

Dennis handed out and read SILC information sheets.

The meeting recessed for lunch, then SILC and SRC members attended Robert’s Rules of Order training.